

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for managing access to forecast data, the method comprising the computer-
2 implemented steps of:
3 identifying, from a plurality of customers, a set of one or more customers associated
4 with a particular user;
5 selecting a set of one or more products from a plurality of products; and
6 allowing the particular user to access forecast data for the set of one or more products
7 for each customer from the set of one or more customers.
8
- 9 2. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of identifying, from a plurality of
10 customers, a set of one or more customers associated with the particular user includes
11 selecting a set of one or more customer nodes associated with the user from a
12 plurality of customer nodes in a customer data hierarchy.
13
- 14 3. The method as recited in Claim 2, wherein the forecast data is presented to the
15 particular user based upon a set of formatting attributes associated with the set of one
16 or more customer nodes.
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- 18 4. The method as recited in Claim 2, wherein the step of selecting a set of one or more
19 customer nodes from a plurality of customer nodes in a customer data hierarchy
20 includes traversing the customer data hierarchy to a first forecasting depth.
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22 5. The method as recited in Claim 4, wherein the step of traversing the customer data
23 hierarchy to a first forecasting depth is performed starting from a particular node
24 associated with the user.

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26 6. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of selecting a set of one or more
27 products from a plurality of products includes selecting a set of one or more product
28 data items from a plurality of product data items in a product data hierarchy.

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30 7. The method as recited in Claim 6, wherein the set of one or more product data items
31 are selected from the plurality of product data items based upon a secondary
32 forecasting depth.

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34 8. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of the particular user accessing
35 forecast data includes the particular user specifying forecast data.

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37 9. The method as recited in Claim 8, wherein the step of the particular user specifying
38 forecast data includes the particular user specifying a unit volume.

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40 10. The method as recited in Claim 8, wherein the step of the particular user specifying
41 forecast data includes the particular user specifying a unit price.

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43 11. The method as recited in Claim 8, wherein the step of the particular user specifying
44 forecast data includes the particular user specifying a total currency amount.

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46 12. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein forecast data specified by the particular
47 user is maintained if the forecast data is later changed.

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49 13. A computer-readable medium for managing access to forecast data, the computer-
50 readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions which,
51 when processed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to
52 perform the steps of:

53 identifying, from a plurality of customers, a set of one or more customers associated
54 with a particular user;

55 selecting a set of one or more products from a plurality of products; and
56 allowing the particular user to access forecast data for the set of one or more products
57 for each customer from the set of one or more customers.

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59 14. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 13, wherein the step of
60 identifying, from a plurality of customers, a set of one or more customers associated
61 with the particular user includes selecting a set of one or more customer nodes
62 associated with the user from a plurality of customer nodes in a customer data
63 hierarchy.

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65 15. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 14, wherein the forecast data is
66 presented to the particular user based upon a set of formatting attributes associated
67 with the set of one or more customer nodes.

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69 16. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 14, wherein the step of selecting a
70 set of one or more customer nodes from a plurality of customer nodes in a customer
71 data hierarchy includes traversing the customer data hierarchy to a first forecasting
72 depth.

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74 17. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 16, wherein the step of traversing
75 the customer data hierarchy to a first forecasting depth is performed starting from a
76 particular node associated with the user.

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78 18. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 13, wherein the step of selecting a
79 set of one or more products from a plurality of products includes selecting a set of one
80 or more product data items from a plurality of product data items in a product data
81 hierarchy.

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83 19. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 18, wherein the set of one or
84 more product data items are selected from the plurality of product data items based
85 upon a secondary forecasting depth.

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87 20. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 13, wherein the step of the
88 particular user accessing forecast data includes the particular user specifying forecast
89 data.

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91 21. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 20, wherein the step of the
92 particular user specifying forecast data includes the particular user specifying a unit
93 volume.

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95 22. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 20, wherein the step of the
96 particular user specifying forecast data includes the particular user specifying a unit
97 price.

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99 23. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 20, wherein the step of the
100 particular user specifying forecast data includes the particular user specifying a total
101 currency amount.

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103 24. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 13, wherein forecast data
104 specified by the particular user is maintained if the forecast data is later changed.

105

106 25. A method for managing access to forecast data, the method comprising the computer-
107 implemented steps of:
108 identifying, from a plurality of products, a set of one or more products associated with
109 a particular user;
110 selecting a set of customers from a plurality of customers; and
111 allowing the particular user to access forecast data for the set of one or more
112 customers for each product from the set of one or more products.

113

114 26. The method as recited in Claim 25, wherein the step of identifying, from a plurality of
115 products, a set of one or more products associated with the particular user includes
116 selecting a set of one or more product nodes from a plurality of product nodes in a
117 product data hierarchy.

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119 27. The method as recited in Claim 26, wherein the step of selecting a set of one or more
120 product nodes from a plurality of product nodes in a product data hierarchy includes
121 traversing the product data hierarchy to a first forecasting depth.

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123 28. The method as recited in Claim 27, wherein the step of traversing the product data
124 hierarchy to a first forecasting depth is performed starting from a particular node
125 associated with the user.

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127 29. The method as recited in Claim 25, wherein the step of selecting a set of customers
128 from a plurality of customers includes selecting a set of one or more customer data
129 items from a plurality of customer data items in a customer data hierarchy.

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131 30. The method as recited in Claim 6, wherein the set of one or more customer data items
132 are selected from the plurality of customer data items based upon a secondary
133 forecasting depth.

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135 31. The method as recited in Claim 25, wherein the step of the particular user accessing
136 forecast data includes the particular user specifying forecast data.

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138 32. The method as recited in Claim 31, wherein the step of the particular user specifying
139 forecast data includes the particular user specifying a unit volume.

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141 33. The method as recited in Claim 31, wherein the step of the particular user specifying
142 forecast data includes the particular user specifying a unit price.

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144 34. The method as recited in Claim 31, wherein the step of the particular user specifying
145 forecast data includes the particular user specifying a total currency amount.

146

147 35. A computer-readable medium for managing access to forecast data, the computer-
148 readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions which,
149 when processed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to
150 perform the steps of:

151 identifying, from a plurality of products, a set of one or more products associated with
152 a particular user;

153 selecting a set of customers from a plurality of customers; and

154 allowing the particular user to access forecast data for the set of one or more
155 customers for each product from the set of one or more products.

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157 36. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 35, wherein the step of
158 identifying, from a plurality of products, a set of one or more products associated with
159 the particular user includes selecting a set of one or more product nodes from a
160 plurality of product nodes in a product data hierarchy.

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162 37. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 36, wherein the step of selecting a
163 set of one or more product nodes from a plurality of product nodes in a product data
164 hierarchy includes traversing the product data hierarchy to a first forecasting depth.

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166 38. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 37, wherein the step of traversing
167 the product data hierarchy to a first forecasting depth is performed starting from a
168 particular node associated with the user.

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170 39. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 35, wherein the step of selecting a
171 set of customers from a plurality of customers includes selecting a set of one or more
172 customer data items from a plurality of customer data items in a customer data
173 hierarchy.

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175 40. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 6, wherein the set of one or more
176 customer data items are selected from the plurality of customer data items based upon
177 a secondary forecasting depth.

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179 41. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 35, wherein the step of the
180 particular user accessing forecast data includes the particular user specifying forecast
181 data.

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183 42. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 41, wherein the step of the
184 particular user specifying forecast data includes the particular user specifying a unit
185 volume.

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187 43. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 41, wherein the step of the
188 particular user specifying forecast data includes the particular user specifying a unit
189 price.

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191 44. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 41, wherein the step of the
192 particular user specifying forecast data includes the particular user specifying a total
193 currency amount.

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195 40. An apparatus for managing forecast data comprising:
196 a storage device containing customer hierarchy data and products hierarchy data; and
197 a processor communicatively coupled to the storage device and being configured to
198 process the customer hierarchy data and the products hierarchy data to control
199 access to forecast data.

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201 41. The apparatus as recited in Claim 40, wherein the processor is further configured to
202 control access to forecast data by:
203 using the customer hierarchy data to identify, from a plurality of customers, a set of
204 one or more customers associated with a particular user;
205 using the products hierarchy data to select a set of one or more products from a
206 plurality of products; and
207 allowing the particular user to access forecast data for the set of one or more products
208 for each customer from the set of one or more customers.

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210 42. The apparatus as recited in Claim 41, wherein the processor is further configured to
211 control access to forecast data by:
212 using the products hierarchy data to identify, from a plurality of products, a set of one
213 or more products associated with a particular user;
214 using the customer hierarchy data to select a set of one or more customers from a
215 plurality of customers; and
216 allowing the particular user to access forecast data for the set of one or more
217 customers for each product from the set of one or more products.

218

219 43. A computer-readable medium for managing access to forecast data, the computer-
220 readable medium carrying:
221 customer data hierarchy data;
222 products data hierarchy data; and
223 one or more sequences of one or more instructions which, when processed by one or
224 more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:
225 identify a set of one or more customers associated with a particular user from
226 a plurality of customers defined by the customer data hierarchy data,
227 select a set of products from a plurality of products defined by the products
228 data hierarchy data, and
229 allow a user to access forecast data for the set of one or more products for
230 each customer from the set of one or more customers.